

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Jeffrey Scott Weaver

Serial No.: 10/085,713

Filed: February 28, 2002

Docket No.: 10010089-1

Title: ENABLING PRINTING FEATURES FOR AUTHORIZED USERS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 10, and 18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling features of a printing device, said method comprising:

requiring authorization of a user of the printing device before enabling at least one feature of the printing device;

receiving information to be printed such that the printing device is enabled to print the information to be printed without the at least one feature of the printing device being enabled;

receiving authorization information of the user of the printing device for use of the at least one feature of the printing device;

if the user of the printing device is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieving enabling information for the at least one feature of the printing device; and

enabling the at least one feature of the printing device using the enabling information such that the information to be printed is printed using the at least one feature.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a user authorization tag including the authorization information of the user; and

wherein receiving the authorization information of the user is accomplished when the user authorization tag is in a proximity of the printing device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the authorization information of the user is being received; and

discontinuing printing of the information to be printed using the at least one feature if the authorization information of the user is not being received.

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the enabling information for the at least one feature comprises:
 - accessing a storage medium external to the printing device; and
 - retrieving the enabling information from the storage medium.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the storage medium is a Web site.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 - providing the storage medium.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling information for the at least one feature is stored by the printing device.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving identification information corresponding to a print cartridge of the printing device;
 - determining whether the identification information corresponding to the print cartridge is associated with the printing device; and
 - if the identification information corresponding to the print cartridge is not associated with the printing device, notifying the user that the print cartridge may not be associated with the printing device.
10. (Currently Amended) A print system comprising:
 - a printing device configured to receive information to be printed; and
 - a feature-enabling system communicated with the printing device, the feature-enabling system configured to:
 - require authorization of a user of the printing device before at least one feature of the printing device is enabled;
 - enable the printing device to print the information to be printed without the at least one feature of the printing device being enabled;

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receive authorization information of the user of the printing device for use of the at least one feature of the printing device;

if the user of the printing device is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieve information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device; and

enable the at least one feature of the printing device using the information retrieved such that the information to be printed is printed using the at least one feature.

11. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 16, wherein the identification reader includes a receiver, the receiver being adapted to receive the authorization information of the user via wireless communication.

12. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 16, wherein the identification reader includes means for receiving information via wireless communication.

13. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 16, further comprising:
a user authorization tag adapted to communicate with the identification reader via wireless communication, the user authorization tag including a memory, the memory storing the authorization information of the user.

14. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 13, wherein the user authorization tag includes information configured to enable the feature-enabling system to retrieve the information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device.

15. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 13, wherein the user authorization tag includes a Uniform Resources Locator corresponding to the information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device.

16. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 10, wherein the printing device comprises:

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a print cartridge containing a print substance for printing on a print medium, the print cartridge having a readable identification tag for providing identification information; and
an identification reader configured to receive the identification information from the readable identification tag, wherein, if the identification information corresponds to the printing device, the identification reader enables the printing device to print.

17. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 10, wherein the at least one feature is one of: a half-toning algorithm, a font, a digital signature and a photo algorithm.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for use with a printing device, said computer readable medium comprising:

logic configured to:

require authorization of a user of the printing device before at least one feature of the printing device is enabled;

receive information to be printed and enable the printing device to print the information to be printed without the at least one feature of the printing device being enabled;

receive authorization information of the user of the printing device for use of the at least one feature of the printing device;

if the user of the printing device is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieve information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device;

enable the at least one feature of the printing device using the information retrieved; and

print the information to be printed using the at least one feature.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:

logic configured to access a Web site; and

logic configured to retrieve the information adapted to enable the at least one feature from the Web site.

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20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:
logic configured to determine whether identification information corresponding to a print cartridge is associated with the printing device; and
logic configured to notify the user if the identification information corresponding to the print cartridge is not associated with the printing device.
21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:
logic configured to determine whether the authorization information of the user is being received; and
logic configured to discontinue printing by the printing device using the at least one feature if the authorization information of the user is not being received.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one feature is one of: a half-toning algorithm, a font, a digital signature and a photo algorithm.